

15 July 2024

**Senate Environment and Communications Committee**

[ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

**Re: Response to Questions on Notice – inquiry into Middle Arm**

**Q1. Santos undertook to provide a written document in relation to metric used to promote First Nations peoples to executive roles.**

In 2023, Santos established an Indigenous Advisory Panel (IAP) chaired by the CEO, to enable Santos Executive Leaders and Australian Traditional Owners the chance to work together and deliver tangible, meaningful, and sustainable outcomes for their communities in the areas in which we operate in Australia. The Indigenous Advisory Panel resulted from feedback gained during a Yarning Circle back in November 2022 where Traditional Owners asked for real action to come from these discussions. This has resulted in a significant uplift in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in key areas of the business, including employment and supplier spend, and has had a constructive and positive impact on the way Santos conducts our business. The IAP identified focus areas with significant progress being made in the first year, including: • An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and training pathway • An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment program was initiated resulting in an increase of 17 employees being recruited across Australia • An overall Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contractor workforce increase by 44 per cent in 2023 and permanent workforce increase by 47.2 per cent • Expansion of early career pathway programs to include a corporate traineeship • Introduction of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employee mentoring program, called Mob Matters, designed to support onboarding, development and career progression through the company including into executive management positions.

See page 19 of [Sustainability-and-Climate-Report-2023.pdf \(santos.com\)](#)

**Q2. Did Santos bid in the latest round of the underwater acreage auction offered by Minister King last November?**

Santos has made an application for a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) storage licence off WA in 2023. Santos is awaiting a decision as to the success of the application.

Santos did not bid for any other acreage in 2023 as there was no annual licensing round for offshore petroleum exploration acreage in 2023.

**Q3. How much of the gas [from Bayu-Undan] is being sold to the domestic market?**

All the gas produced at Bayu -Undan is being supplied to the Northern Territory's Power and Water Corporation.

**Q4. Q. Was Santos involved in funding any marine research in the Darwin Harbour? how much you funded, when you started, when you finished and what research that funding provided.**

Santos, through the Darwin LNG Joint Venture, contributes \$40,000 annually to the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC). DHAC provides advice to the relevant Northern Territory Minister in relation to the effective management of the harbour and its catchment.

A key role of DHAC is to produce the Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card (Report Card), which involves monitoring conditions over time across eight values and 19 associated indicators. This also includes consulting with numerous stakeholder groups whose interests intersect.

The 2024 Report Card is publicly available at [www.dhirc.org.au](http://www.dhirc.org.au) .

Under the Environmental Licence Number EPL 217-03 under the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 (the licence):

- In accordance with the licence conditions, and over the operations phase of the Darwin LNG facility (the facility), Santos has implemented and maintained an environmental monitoring program (the program) which involves mangrove surveillance near to the facility, and collection and analysis of mangrove sediments and biota for hydrocarbon and heavy metals concentrations.
- Condition 85 of the licence requires Santos to provide an annual monitoring report to the NT Environment Protection Authority on 1 March, covering the prior calendar year, and including results of this program.
- The licence, and annual monitoring reports, are publicly available at [www.ntepa.nt.gov.au](http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au) .

**Q5. The amount of ACCU credits secured by Santos for the first two years of the Barossa project and how Santos has modelled going forward for the remainder of the project.**

In 2023, Santos executed agreements to build a portfolio of projects supporting the development of five nature-based projects across Queensland, Alaska and Papua New Guinea, to generate carbon credits. Further, in 2023 Santos entered into forward contracts for the purchase of 2.5 million ACCUs at fixed prices to be delivered and paid between December 2023 and January 2027. Santos will meet its obligations under the safeguard mechanism and subject to a future investment decision may offset emissions through CCS at Bayu-Undan.

Regards,

**Michael Abbott**

Group General Counsel and EVP Environment & Governance